## Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application: 3 Listing of Claims: (Currently amended) A method of confirming proper receipt of e-mail, said method 5 comprising the steps of: obtaining an e-mail file which is intended by a sending party for transmission to a target 7 e-mail address associated with a target party; electronically transmitting the e-mail file from a first computer connected to a 9 communications network and associated with the sending party; 10 delivering the e-mail file to a recipient e-mail address which is associated with a second 11 computer connected to the communications network; detecting a designated an access event triggered by an accessing party and generally 13 associated with e-mail retrieval from the recipient e-mail address; 14 upon a detection of the designated access event automatically executing the steps of: 15 providing notice of the delivered e-mail file to the accessing party, 16 discovering recipient data generally associated with the recipient e-mail address, 17 18 generating a confirmation of receipt notice containing the discovered recipient 19 data, and 20 electronically transmitting the confirmation of receipt notice from the second computer to a return e-mail address associated with the sending party; and 21 22 comparing for allowing a comparison of the discovered recipient data contained in 23 the confirmation of receipt notice with intended delivery information associated with the target party, whereby the sending party may in order to determine whether the e-mail file 24 was properly delivered to the intended recipient. 25 . . . . 26 27 (Original) The method as in claim 1, 28 wherein the discovering step includes retrieving from the second computer a pre-

recorded recipient data file containing pre-recorded recipient data.

(Currently amended) The method as in claim 1,

further comprising the steps step of: obtaining accessing party identity information from the accessing party as a requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient e-mail address, and recording the accessing party identity information to an accessing party data file for resident storage in the second computer, and

wherein the discovering step includes retrieving the accessing party data file from the second computer accessing party identity information, and wherein the generating step includes such accessing party identity information within the recipient data contained in the confirmation of receipt notice, and the step of comparing the discovered recipient data includes determining whether the accessing party identity information is equivalent to or different from the intended target party, whereby the sending party may determine whether the accessing party triggering the access event was in fact the intended target party.

(Currently amended) The method as in claim 1,

further comprising the steps of: obtaining accessing party identity information from the accessing party as a requisite condition for operating a remote user computer, said remote user computer connected to the second computer via the communications network and being operable by the accessing party to gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address, and recording the accessing party identity information to an accessing party data—file for resident storage in the remote user computer, and

wherein the discovering step includes retrieving the accessing party data file from the remote user computer accessing party identity information; and the step of comparing the discovered recipient data includes determining whether the accessing party identity information is equivalent to or different from the intended target party, whereby the sending party may determine whether the accessing party triggering the access event was in fact the intended target party.

1 (Currently amended) The method as in claim 1, 2 wherein the discovering step includes electronically tapping a remote connection 3 between the second computer and a remote user computer which is operable by the accessing party to gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address via the 4 5 communications network, for obtaining remote access information associated with the 6 remote connection between the second computer and the remote user computer. 7 8 (Original) The method as in claim 1, 9 further comprising the step of: transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address an executable 10 attachment file in conjunction with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a 11 12 first module for discovering the recipient data, a second module for generating the confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for electronically transmitting 13 the confirmation of receipt notice, 14 15 and upon the detection of the designated access event, automatically executing the first, second, and third modules of the executable attachment file. 16 17 18 (Currently amended) The method as in claim 6, wherein the executable attachment file has a fourth and fifth modules module transmitted 19 and delivered therewith, the fourth module for detecting the designated access event, and the fifth module for providing notice of the delivered e-mail file to the accessing party; and 21 further comprising the steps step of: 22 automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery of the attachment file to the 23 24 recipient e-mail address, and 25 upon the detection of the designated access event, automatically executing the 26 module of the executable attachment file.

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(Original) The method as in claim 1, 1 further comprising the step of determining, upon delivery of the e-mail file to the 2 recipient e-mail address, whether the delivered e-mail file is of at least one designated 3 file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt notice, and 4 5 wherein the detecting step occurs upon a determination that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one designated file-type. 6 7 8 Canceled. 9 10. Canceled. Canceled. 10 11. 12. Canceled. 11 Canceled. 12 113. 13 14. Canceled. 14 115. Canceled. 15 **l**16. Canceled. 16 17. (Currently amended) A system for confirming proper receipt of e-mail transmitted over 17 a communications network, said system comprising: an e-mail file which is intended by a sending party for electronic transmission to 18 19 a target e-mail address associated with a target party; 20 a first computer connected to the communications network and from which the 21 sending party may electronically transmit the e-mail file; 22 a second recipient computer connected to the communications network-and 23 associated with a recipient e-mail address, the second recipient computer having a data 24 storage location for storably receiving the e-mail file thereon upon delivery to the 25 recipient e-mail address; 26 first executable software means for detecting a designated access event which is 27 triggered by an accessing party and which is generally associated with e-mail retrieval 28 from the recipient e-mail address;

second executable software means for providing notice of the delivered e-mail file

to the accessing party;

third executable software means for discovering recipient data associated with the recipient e-mail address;

fourth third executable software means for generating a confirmation of receipt notice containing the <u>discovered</u> recipient data; and

fifth fourth executable software means for electronically transmitting the confirmation of receipt notice from the second computer to a return e-mail address associated with the sending party,

wherein the second, third, <u>and</u> fourth, <u>and fifth</u> executable software means are configured for automatic execution upon detection of the designated access event by the first executable software means,

whereby a comparative examination of data contained in the confirmation of receipt notice may be compared by the sending party permits the sending party to the delivery information associated with the target party to determine whether the e-mail file was properly delivered to the intended recipient.

(Currently amended) The system as in claim 17,

further comprising a pre-recorded recipient data file resident in the second recipient computer and containing the recipient data, and

wherein the third second executable software means for discovering operates to retrieve the pre-recorded recipient data file from the second recipient computer.

(Currently amended) The system as in claim 17,

further comprising a remote user computer which is remotely connected to the second recipient computer via the communications network and from which the accessing party may gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address, and

wherein the third executable software means operates to discover remote access information associated with the remote access of the recipient e-mail address from the remote user computer.

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(Currently amended) The system as in claim 19 17,

further comprising accessing party identifier means resident on the second

recipient computer for obtaining accessing party identification information from the accessing party as a requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient e-mail address, said accessing party identifier means subsequently recording the accessing party identity information to an accessing party data file for resident storage in the second computer, and

wherein the third second executable software means for discovering recipient data operates to retrieve the accessing party data file from the second computer identification information.

(Currently amended) The system as in claim  $\frac{19}{17}$ ,

further comprising accessing party identifier means resident on the remote user computer for obtaining accessing party identification information from the accessing party as a requisite condition for operating the remote user a computer, said accessing party identifier means subsequently recording the accessing party identity information to an accessing party data file for resident storage in the remote user computer, and

wherein the third second executable software means for discovering recipient data operates to retrieve the accessing party data file from the remote user computer identification information.

(Currently amended) The system as in claim 19,

wherein the third second executable software means for discovering recipient data operates to electronically tap the remote connection between the second recipient computer and the remote user computer[,] for obtaining remote access information associated with the remote connection between the second computer and the remote user computer.

(Currently amended) The system as in claim 17, **1**23. 1 2 wherein the second, third, and fourth, and fifth executable software means are third, fourth, and fifth modules, respectively, of an executable attachment file transmitted and delivered in conjunction with the e-mail file. 5 6 24. (Original) The system as in claim 23, 7 wherein the first and second executable software means are first and second modules, respectively, of the executable attachment file, with said first module 8 automatically executing upon delivery of the executable attachment file to the 9 10 recipient e-mail address. 11 12 25. (Currently amended) The system as in clam 17, 13 further comprising a sixth fifth executable software means for determining whether the delivered e-mail file is of at least one designated field-type requiring a 14 15 confirmation of receipt notice, and wherein the first executable software means is automatically executed upon a 16 determination that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one designated file-type 17 requiring a confirmation of receipt notice. 18 19 Please add the following new claims: 21 22 26. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail. 24 25 27. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is 26 directly accessible by said recipient party, said user system including an electronic mail

processing software and being capable of receiving e-mail.

28. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein the third executable software means for discovering recipient data operates to electronically tap the remote connection between the computer associated with the sending party and the recipient computer for obtaining remote access information associated with the remote connection. 5 29. (New) The system as in Claim 19, wherein the third executable software means operates to discover remote access information associated with the remote access of the recipient e-mail address from the remote user computer. 9 30. (New) The system as in Claim 20, wherein said accessing party identification information is stored in the recipient computer. 12 31. (New) The system as in Claim 20, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password 14 identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 15 16 B2. (New) The system as in Claim 21, wherein said accessing party identification information is 17 18 stored in said computer. 19 33. (New) The system as in Claim 21, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password 21 dentification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 22 23 34. (New) The system as in Claim 21, 25 wherein said computer is the recipient computer. 26 35. (New) The system as in Claim 21, 28 wherein said computer is a remote user computer.

B6. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to 3 verify proper delivery of legal documents. 4 B7. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of confidential documents. 7 38. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, dentity information associated with said accessing party. 10 [39. (New) The system as in Claim 38, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification. 13 40. (New) The method as in Claim 39 further comprising means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual. 16 41. (New) The system as in Claim 17, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part; a computer generated user code associated with said accessing party. 19 42. (New) The method as in Claim 1, 21 wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail. 22 23 43. (New) The method as in Claim 1, 25 wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is directly accessible by said accessing party, said user system including an electronic mail processing software and being capable of receiving e-mail.

44. (New) The method as in Claim 3, wherein said accessing party identity information is stored in the recipient computer. 2 3 45. (New) The method as in Claim 3, 5 wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password Identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 7 [46. (New) The method as in Claim 4, 9 wherein said accessing party identity information is stored in said computer. 10 47. (New) The method as in Claim 4, 11 12 wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password Identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 14 48. (New) The method as in Claim 4, wherein said computer is the recipient computer. 16 17 49. (New) The method as in Claim 4, 18 19 wherein said computer is a remote user computer. 20 50. (New) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the discovering step includes electronically tapping the remote connection between the computer associated with the sending party and the recipient computer for obtaining remote access information associated with the remote connection. 23 24 51. (New) The method as in Claim 1, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to 25 verify proper delivery of legal documents. 27 28

1 \( \begin{aligned} \begin{aligned} \text{New} \end{aligned} \) The method as in Claim 1, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of confidential documents. 3 53. (New) The method as in Claim 1, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, identity information associated with said accessing party. 6 54. (New) The method as in Claim 53, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification. 9 10 \( \begin{aligned} 55. \) (New) The method as in Claim 54 further comprising means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual. 12 13 \( \) (New) The method as in Claim 1, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, a computer generated user code associated with said accessing party. 15 57. (New) A method of verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was delivered to the 16 intended recipient, said method comprising: 17 18 a) acquiring an e-mail for transmission to a target recipient; b) transmitting said e-mail from a sender computer that is connected to the communications 19 20 network; 21 c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address, said recipient e-mail address associated with a recipient computer; 22 d) upon the occurrence of an access event, searching for recipient data from a target location 23 associated with said recipient data, said recipient data associated with the recipient party; e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the obtained recipient data is included 25 in said confirmation of receipt notice; 26 27 f) transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said sending party, whereinafter, the obtained recipient data on said confirmation of receipt notice can

be compared to delivery data associated with said intended recipient in order to verify if the e-2 mail was properly delivered. 3 58. (New) The method as in Claim 57 further including the step of including in said confirmation of receipt notice access event data of attendant conditions of said access event. 6 59. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said target location is said recipient computer. 8 60. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said target location is a remote user computer which is remotely connected to the recipient computer and from which the recipient party may gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address. 12 61. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said target location comprises the remote connection between said recipient computer and a remote user computer, said remote connection being electronically tapped in order obtain said recipient data. 16 62. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said target location comprises the remote connection between said sender computer and recipient computer, said remote connection being electronically tapped in order obtain said recipient data. 20 63. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail. 22 23 64. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that includes an electronic mail processing software and is capable of receiving e-mail. 26 65. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein the searching step includes retrieving a prerecorded data file containing pre-recorded recipient data.

1	66. (New) The method as in Claim 57,
2	further comprising the steps of: obtaining recipient party identity information as a
3	requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient e-mail account or e-mail, said
4	identity information configured to precisely identify said recipient party, and
5	wherein the step of obtaining recipient data from a target location associated with
6	said recipient data includes retrieving the recipient party identity information.
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8	67. (New) The method as in Claim 66,
9	wherein said recipient party identity information is
10	stored in the recipient computer.
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12	68. (New) The method as in Claim 66,
13	wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password
14	identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.
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16	69. (New) The method as in Claim 57, further comprising the steps of:
17	obtaining recipient party identity information as a requisite condition for operating a
18	computer, and
19	wherein said identity information is configured to precisely identify said recipient party,
20	and the step of obtaining recipient data from a target location associated with said recipient data
21	includes retrieving the recipient party identity information.
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23	70. (New) The method as in Claim 69,
24	wherein said recipient party identity information is stored in said computer.
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26	71. (New) The method as in Claim 69,
27	wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification, password
28	identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

72. (New) The method as in Claim 69, wherein said computer is the recipient computer. 2 3 73. (New) The method as in Claim 69, wherein said computer is a remote user computer. 4 74. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of legal documents. 7 75. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of confidential documents. 10 76. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, identity information associated with said recipient party. 13 77. (New) The method as in Claim 76, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric identification. 16 78. (New) The method as in Claim 77 further comprising means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual. 18 19 79. (New) The method as in Claim 57, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, a computer generated user code associated with said recipient party. 22 80. (New) A process for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was delivered to the intended recipient, said process comprising: 25 a) acquiring an e-mail for transmission to a target recipient; 26 b) transmitting said e-mail from a sender computer that is connected to the communications 27 network; 28 c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address, said e-mail address associated with a recipient computer;

d) upon the occurrence of an access event, searching for recipient data that is associated with 1 2 the recipient party; e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered recipient data is 3 included in said confirmation of receipt notice; 4 f) transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said 5 sending party, whereinafter, the discovered recipient data contained in said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to delivery data associated with said intended recipient in order to verify if the e-mail was properly delivered. 8 9 81. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein the step of searching for recipient data is 10 conducted by searching said recipient computer. 11 12 82. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein the step of searching for recipient data is 13 conducted by searching a remote user computer which is remotely connected to the recipient 14 computer and from which the recipient party may gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address 15 16 83. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein the step of searching for recipient data is conducted by electronically tapping the remote connection between said recipient computer and a 18 19 remote user computer. 20 84. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein the step of searching for recipient data is 21 conducted by electronically tapping the remote connection between said sender computer and 22 said recipient computer. 23 24 85. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail. 26 27 86. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that includes an electronic mail processing software and is capable of receiving e-mail.

93. (New) The process of Claim 91, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric dentification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 3 94. (New) The process of Claim 91, wherein said computer is the recipient computer. 5 95. (New) The process of Claim 91, wherein said computer is a remote user computer. 7 96. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify 9 proper delivery of legal documents. 10 97. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify 11 proper delivery of confidential documents. 13 98. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, identity information associated with said recipient party. 15 16 99. (New) The process of Claim 98, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric 17 identification. 18 19 100. (New) The process of Claim 99 further comprising means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual. 21 22 101. (New) The process of Claim 80, wherein said recipient data comprises, at least in part, a 23 computer generated user code associated with said recipient party. 24 25 102. (New) A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was delivered to the 26 27 intended recipient, said system comprising: 28 a) a sender computer connected to the communications network and from which an e-mail is tran b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer

being capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means for storing said received e-mail; 2 3 c) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein upon detection of said access event, said software executes the following steps: 4 1) searching for recipient data associated with the recipient party; 5 6 2) including the discovered recipient data in a confirmation of receipt notice; 7 d) means for transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said sending party, whereinafter, the data contained in said confirmation of receipt notice 8 can be compared to delivery data associated with said intended recipient in order to verify if the e-mail was properly delivered. 10 11 103. (New) The system as in Claim 102, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail. 13 14 133: 104. (New) The system as in Claim 102, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is 15 directly accessible by said recipient party, said user system including an electronic mail 17 processing software and being capable of receiving e-mail. 18 105. (New) The system as in Claim 102, further comprising a remote user computer which is remotely connected to the recipient computer. 20 21 106. (New) The system as in Claim 102, further comprising a pre-recorded recipient data file 22 containing the recipient data, and wherein the executable software means for searching operates to retrieve the pre-recorded recipient data file. 24 25 107. (New) The system as in Claim 102, wherein the executable software means for searching operates to search for remote access information associated with the remote access of the recipient e-mail address from the remote user computer.

108. (New) The system as in Claim 102, further comprising recipient party identifier means resident on the recipient computer for obtaining recipient party identification information as a requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient e-mail account or e-mail, said identity 3 information configured to precisely identify said recipient party, and 5 wherein the executable software means for searching for recipient data operates to retrieve the recipient party identification information. 7 109. (New) The system as in Claim 108, wherein said recipient party identification information 9 is stored in the recipient computer. 10 110. (New) The system as in Claim 108, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric 11 identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 13 111. (New) The system as in Claim 102, 14 further comprising recipient party identifier means for obtaining recipient party identification 15 information as a requisite condition for operating a computer, said identity information 16 configured to precisely identify said recipient party, and 17 wherein the executable software means for searching for recipient data operates to retrieve 18 the recipient party identification information. 19 20 112. (New) The system as in Claim 111 wherein said recipient party identification information is 21 22 stored in said computer. 23 113. (New) The system as in Claim 111 wherein said identity information pertains to biometric 24 identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof. 25 26 114. (New) The system as in Claim 111, wherein said computer is the recipient computer. 28 115. (New) The system as in Claim 111, wherein said computer is a remote user computer;